



NEWS RELEASE

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SBA Recognized For Creating 'One-Stop' Legal and Regulatory Web Site for Small Businesses

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration won double honors today at the annual Excellence.gov awards luncheon. The agency won top honors for BusinessLaw.gov and was one of 25 award winners for developing a first-of-its kind integrated state business registration and federal Employer Identification Number Web service.

The annual awards recognize e-government projects that are innovative, mature, demonstrate measurable results, impact the agency's mission and can be copied by other organizations. The site, launched in December 2001, was among 90 nominees for the award. BusinessLaw.gov is a one-stop legal and regulatory site built primarily by SBA field attorneys. It helps businesses find, understand and comply with laws and regulations at all levels of government. The site can be found on the Web at <http://businesslaw.gov> or through the Laws and Regulations section of <http://www.sba.gov> or <http://www.business.gov>.

Covering all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, BusinessLaw.gov is currently accessed approximately 320,000 times per week for a total of over 20 million times in the past two years, saving businesses an estimated \$100 million annually by making legal and regulatory information available at their fingertips.

"I am proud that this important Web tool is being recognized with this honor," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "The creation of BusinessLaw.gov is in keeping with President Bush's mandate that government Web sites be cross-agency and citizen-centered. This resource guide was developed with small business owners – our customers – in mind. Because it provides interagency and intergovernmental information, BusinessLaw.gov simplifies and integrates the way government interacts with businesses. BusinessLaw.gov epitomizes what the President is demanding of government in his Small Business Agenda, namely tearing down the regulatory barriers to job creation and providing small businesses with the information they need to succeed."

BusinessLaw.gov consolidates and indexes more than 6,500 Web pages containing links to credible sources of information on 39 topics of general interest ranging from the most basic, such as licenses and permits, to the highly specialized, such as e-commerce and exporting. The site also offers information specific to each state and territory including sections on "Hiring Employees," "Paying Taxes" and "Selecting a Location." It features interactive tools, searchable frequently asked questions and answers, downloadable forms and publications, electronic regulatory compliance guides and links to online transactions.